



TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES

3 DEC \$2.95 US

FURMAN
WILDMAN



TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES

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PREVIOUSLY IN TRANSFORMERS: THE WAR WITHIN...

THE FALLEN, a mysterious TRANSFORMER from CYBERTRON's distant past, has returned, recruiting the services of BLUDGEON, MINDWIPE and BUGLY. They begin to turn up the heat, agitating a civil war that has (since the loss of OPTIMUS PRIME and MEGATRON) divided into disparate factions, including the Wreckers and the Ultracons, who clash in the disputed region known as the Tegan Heights. Ultracon leader, RATBAT, unleashes his secret weapon, DEURASTATOR, only for another giant, combined robot, DEFENSOR, to enter the fray...

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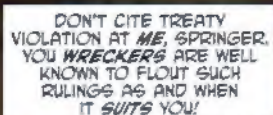
INDUSTRIAL QUADRANT EAST,
THE TAGAN HEIGHTS:

RATBAT!

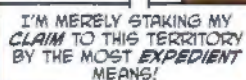
DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT YOU'VE
UNLEASHED?







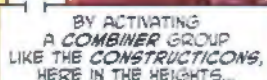
DON'T CITE TREATY VIOLATION AT *ME*, SPRINGER. YOU *WRECKERS* ARE WELL KNOWN TO FLOUT SUCH RULINGS AS AND WHEN IT *SUITS* YOU!



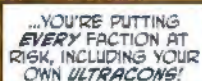
I'M MERELY STAKING MY *CLAIM* TO THIS TERRITORY BY THE MOST *EXPEDIENT* MEANS!



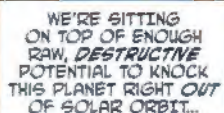
NO.



BY ACTIVATING A *COMBINER* GROUP LIKE THE *CONSTRUCTICONS*, HERE IN THE HEIGHTS...



...YOU'RE PUTTING *EVERY* FACTION AT RISK, INCLUDING YOUR OWN *ULTRACONS*!



WE'RE SITTING ON TOP OF ENOUGH RAW, *DESTRUCTIVE* POTENTIAL TO KNOCK THIS PLANET RIGHT OUT OF SOLAR ORBIT...



WOKE!



WATCH!



...AND YOU'VE JUST LIT THE FUSE!

FORMER HUB-CAPITAL,
IACON.

VIRTUE'S FORUM.

UNREST?

TRAILBREAKER-
THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN
TO DESCRIBE IT.

IT'S FALLING
APART OUT
THERE!

WELL...THERE'S
CERTAINLY BEEN AN
ESCALATION IN THE PAST
FEW CYCLES, BUT TRUTH
BE TOLD, JETFIRE...

...IT'S NEVER
EXACTLY
QUIET.

BUT...
THIS?!

WRECKERS AND
ULTRACONS BUTTING HEADS
IN THE TAGAN HEIGHTS...WITH
DEVASTATOR AND DEFENSOR
THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE!
DECEPTICONS MASSING ON THE
KALIS FRONT, PREDACONS
SWARMING OVER L-S-C
POSITIONS IN URAYA.

SHALL I
GO ON?

IT'S ALMOST AS
IF...SOMEONE'S AGITATED
HERE, PROVOKED THERE.
THERE'S A PATTERN...

I JUST
CAN'T SEE
IT.

RIGHT, WELL...GOOD
LUCK WITH THAT. LOOK,
WE BETTER GO GET CLEANED
UP. WE'RE DUE BACK OUT IN~

TRAILBREAKER,
BLUEBREAK--
HOLD UP!

WHERE'S PROWL?
OR JAZZ? I CAN'T
REMEMBER AUTOBASE
EVER BEING THIS
DESERTED.

I GUESS,
YEAH...WE'RE
STRETCHED PRETTY
THIN RIGHT NOW.

PROWL
AND THE OTHERS
WENT TO CHECK OUT
SOME UPGRADED MOBILE
COMMAND BASE THE
DECEPTICONS WERE
TESTING, Y'KNOW?

YES. I
KNOW.

I SUBMITTED A
DETAILED REPORT ON
THE PROTOTYPE, SO...

...WHY
WASN'T I
CALLED IN?

IACON, THE
BORDER REGIONS:

THIS IS IT,
AUTOBOTS. BEYOND THE
PREDIGEON ARCH...

...AND
WE'RE ONTO THE
TYGUN SPAN.

NEXT
STOP NOVA
CRONUM.

YEAH, AND WHO
KNOWS *WHAT'S* WAITING
FOR US IN THERE?

SINCE THE DECEPTICON
PURGE OF ANO-CYCLE 6-1-1,
IT'S PRETTY MUCH BEEN A
GHOST-STATE.

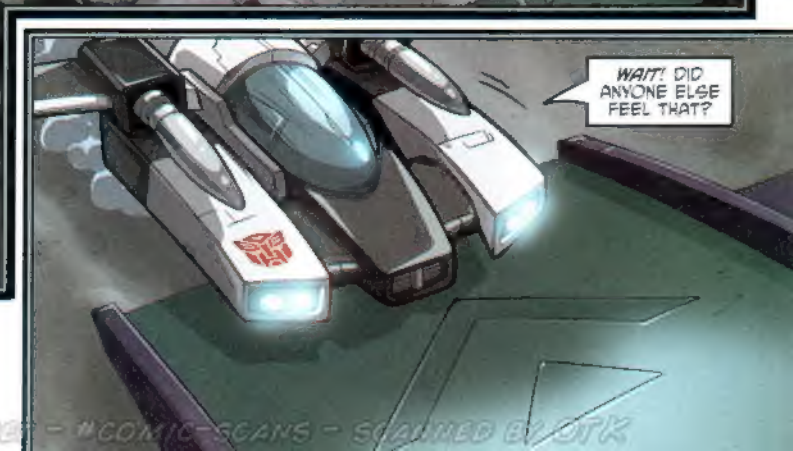
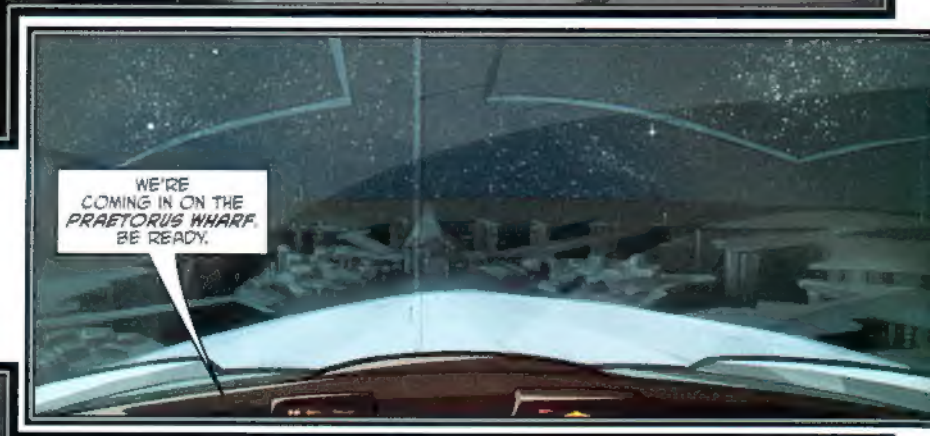
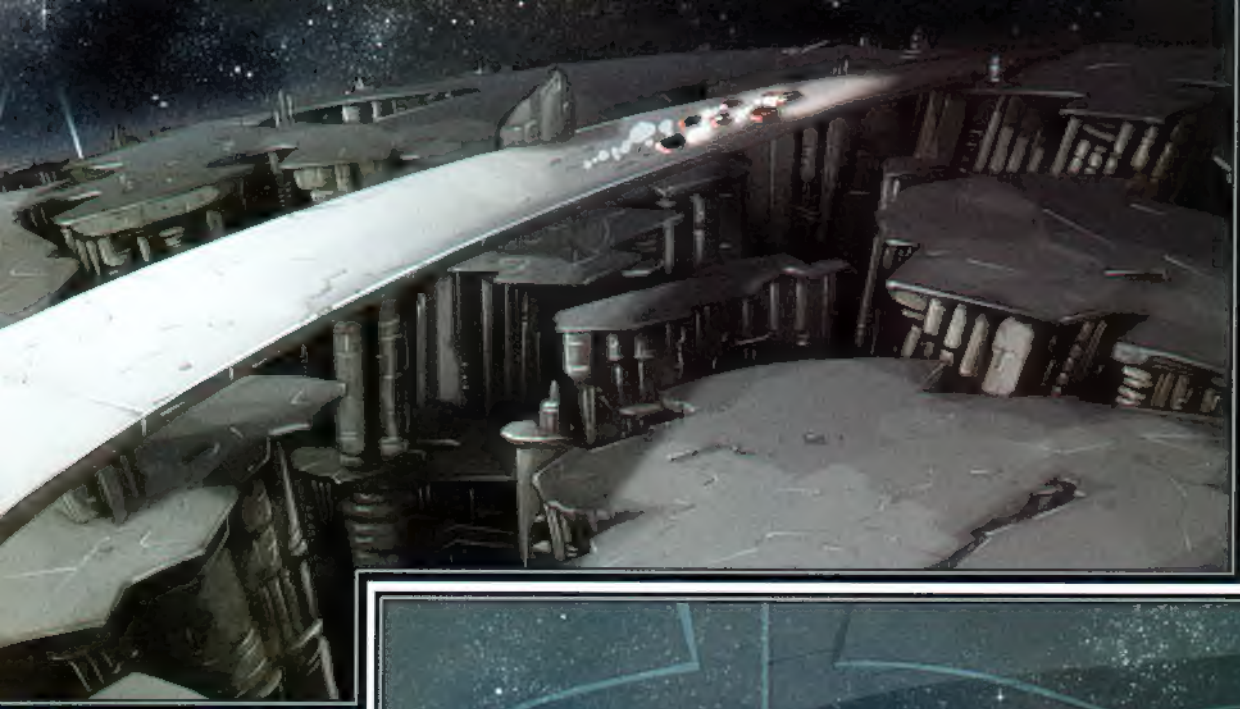
PERFECT PLACE TO ROAD
TEST A NEW SUPER-WEAPON,
I'D SAY. NO PRYING EYES.

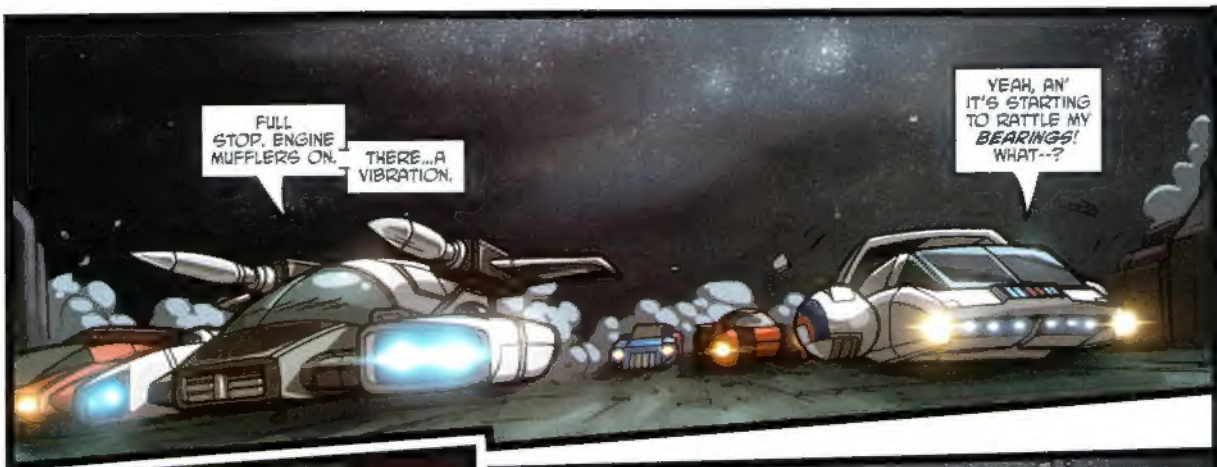
JAZZ, SIDESWIPE,
SKIDS, CLIFFJUMPER,
GEARS...

...LET'S
ROLL OUT.

SENSORS ON MAXIMUM. IF
ANYTHING'S STILL *MOVING*
OUT HERE...I WANT TO
KNOW ABOUT IT.

DEPENDS
WHAT *IT*' IS.



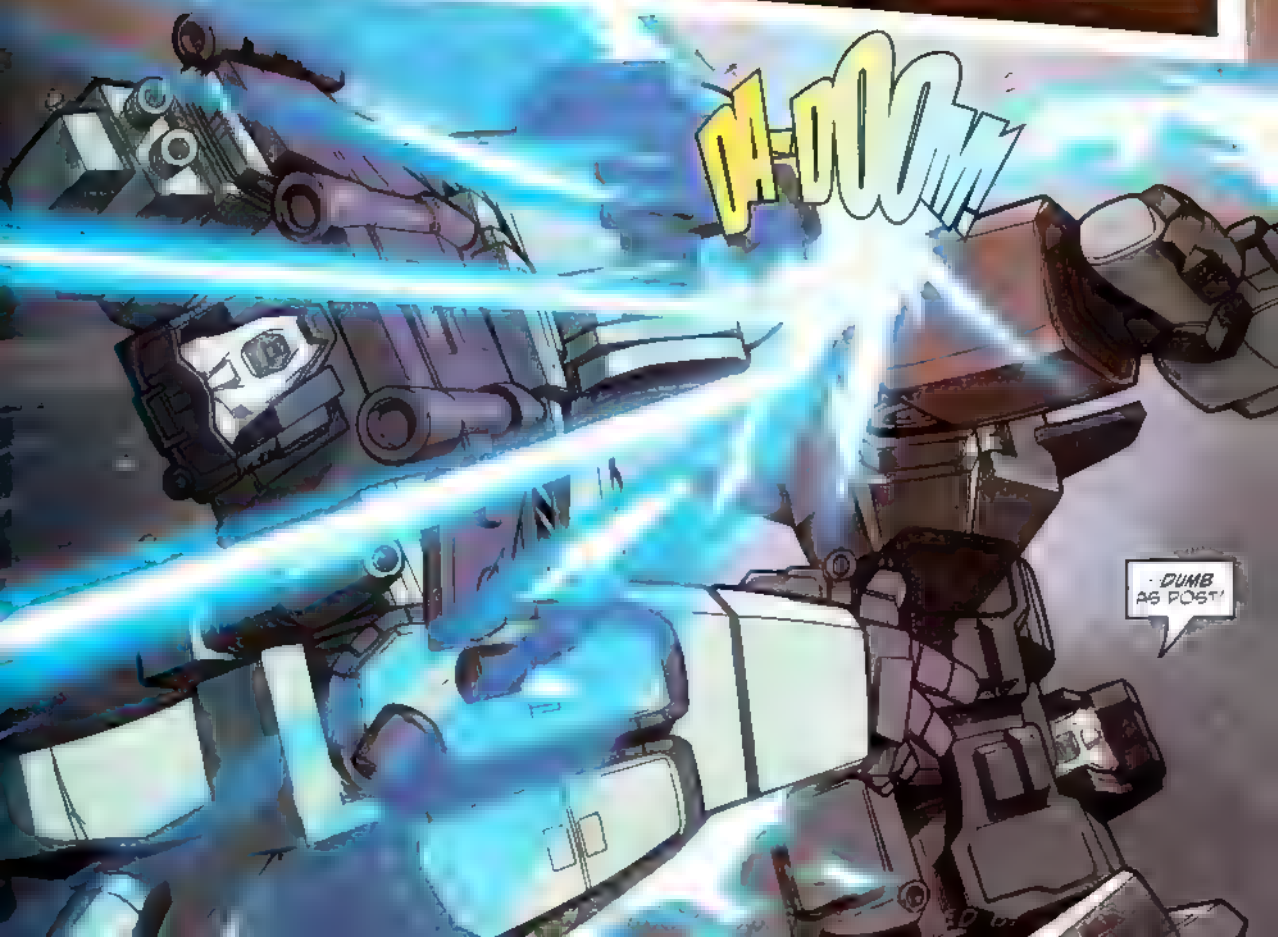
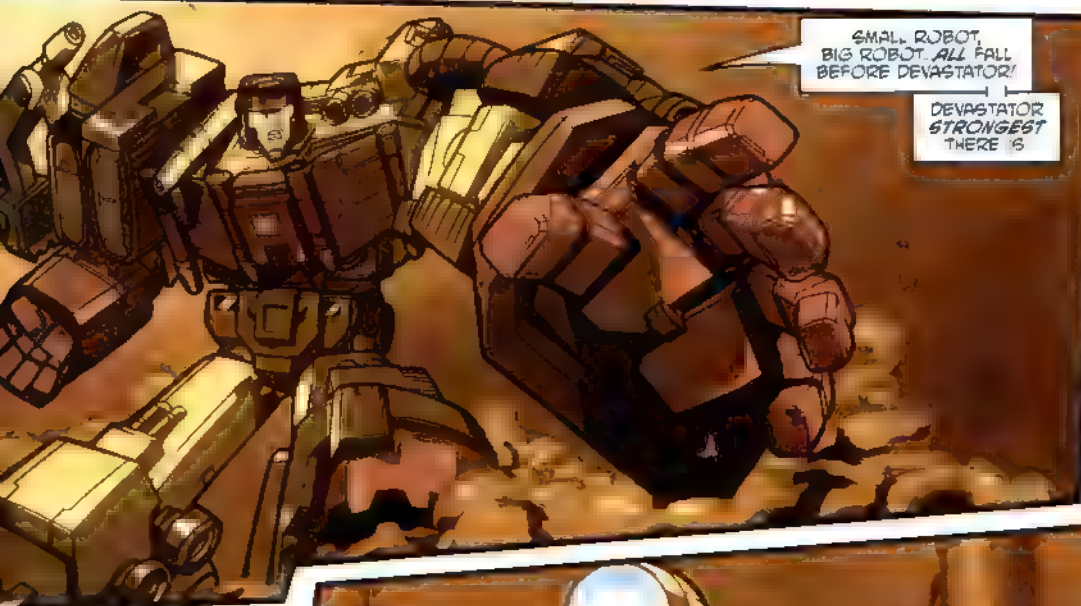


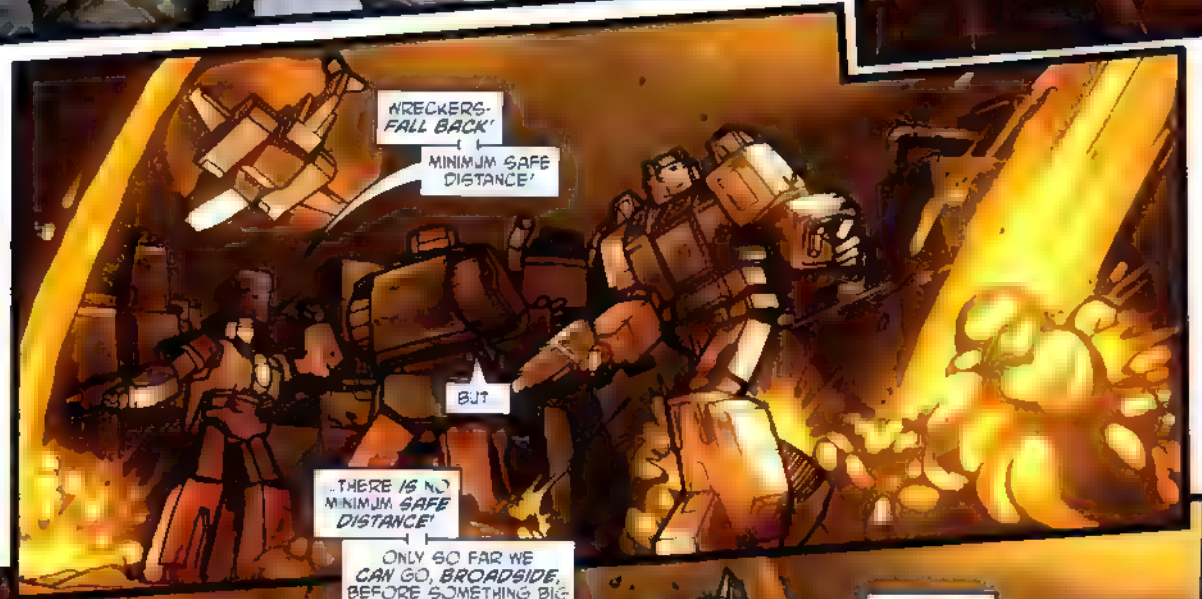
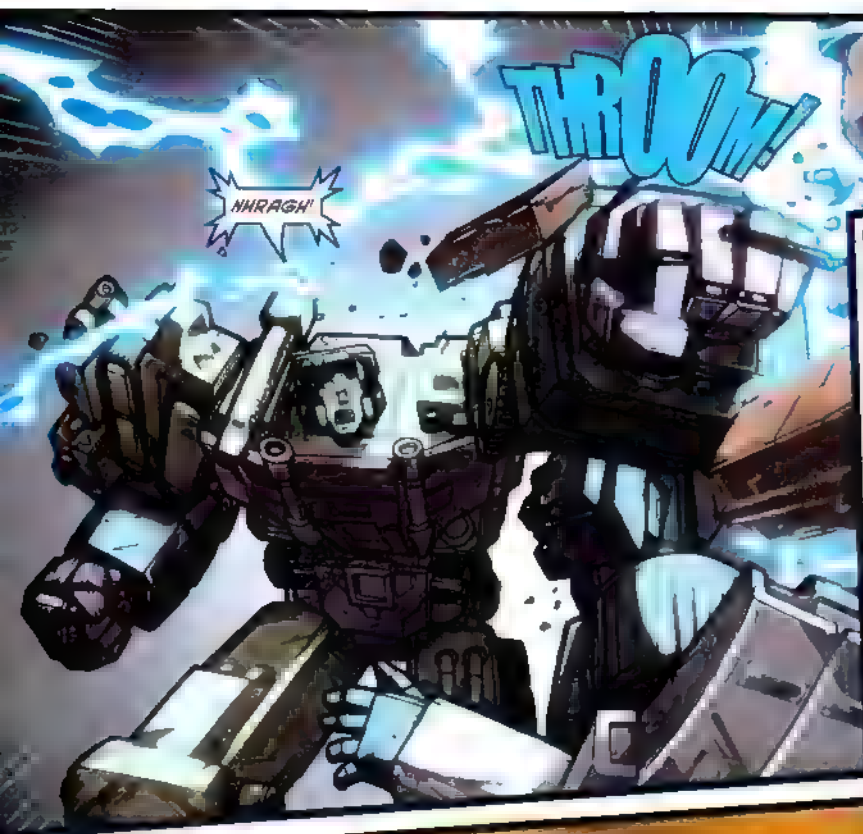


DEFENSIVE FORMAT ON
BETA-ZERO-FIVE HIT
IT WITH *EVERYTHING*
WE'VE GOT!

YES, PLEASE
DO. I'M RATHER IN
NEED OF A PROPER
WORKOUT

IT'S
REALLY *VERY*
GOOD OF YOU TO
VOLUNTEER!





'WRECKERS-
FALL BACK!'
MINIMUM SAFE
DISTANCE'

BUT

'THERE IS NO
MINIMUM SAFE
DISTANCE'

ONLY SO FAR WE
CAN GO, BROADSIDE,
BEFORE SOMETHING BIG
AND CRITICAL GETS
RUPTURED OR
PUNCTURED!



WE'RE
BLOCKED IN
THIS WAY!

KA-POW!



AUTOBASE, SCIENCE
DECK LATERAL SEVEN:

COMPUTER ANALYSIS
OF CURRENT FLASHPOINTS,
BASED ON INITIATION, FACTION
AND LOCAL VARIATION STREAM
ALL KNOWN DATA...

HN

THAT MUCH,
HUH? AND ALL OF
IT DEREGULATED,
UNVERIFIED. IT
WOULD HELP...

IF I KNEW
EXACTLY WHAT I
WAS LOOKING FOR

WITH NO
SHARED POOL
OF INTELLIGENCE, I'LL
NOT FIND ANY CONCLUSIVE
CORRELATION BETWEEN
ONE INCIDENT AND
THE NEXT.

I NEED THE
OTHER HALF OF
THE PICTURE.

...AND A MIND
CAPABLE OF
DISSEMINATING ALL
THE VARIABLES!

THE TAGAN HEIGHTS.

NO!

THAT'S
ENOUGH!

LOOK
AROUND YOU,
DEFENSOR.

I THINK WHERE YOU
ARE I CAN ALMOST
EXCUSE DEVASTATOR, BUT
I THOUGHT THEY MADE YOU
LATER-MODEL COMB NERS
WITH A TOUCH MORE IN THE
SMARTS DEPARTMENT!

PROTECTOBOTS.
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU
GUYS CALL YOURSELVES?

WE'LL START
PROTECTING!

THROK!



BLAST
BLAST!



ER DEFENSOR.
I KNOW WHAT I SAID,
BUT I COULD USE
A HAND

DEFENSOR?

DEFENSOR?



FGHH!

AUTOBASE

FACT IS, THE
AUTOBOTS STILL DON'T
TRUST ME I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN AN OUTSIDER HERE

A SUSPICIOUS
LOOK HERE, A
SIDEWAYS GLANCE
THERE

AND WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK...

I WOULD
BE ANY MORE
INCLINED TO
TRUST YOU?

YOU WHO ONCE
SHARED SO MUCH OF
THE DECEPTICON IDEOLOGY...
AND YET ULTIMATELY SIDED
WITH THE AUTOBOTS.

BECAUSE, SHOCKWAVE, I
BELIEVE YOU HAVE ALREADY
REACHED THE SAME
CONCLUSION AS I HAVE

SOME OUTSIDE FORCE
IS INFLUENCING EVENTS ON
CYBERTRON, CLEARLY FOR
THEIR OWN ENDS.

WE DEAL IN SCIENCE
AND LOGIC, BOTH OF US.
AND THE LOGICAL RESPONSE
IS TO POOL OUR RESOURCES.

THE NEUTRAL
TERRITORIES, IN FIVE
BREEMS, DO NOT
BE LATE!

THE TAGAN HEIGHTS

FIRST CLIP
YOUR WINGS... THEN
SEE HOW WELL
YOU FLY!

HEY!

WHY SETTLE
FOR ONE WHEN
YOU CAN COLLECT
THE SET?

HRG?

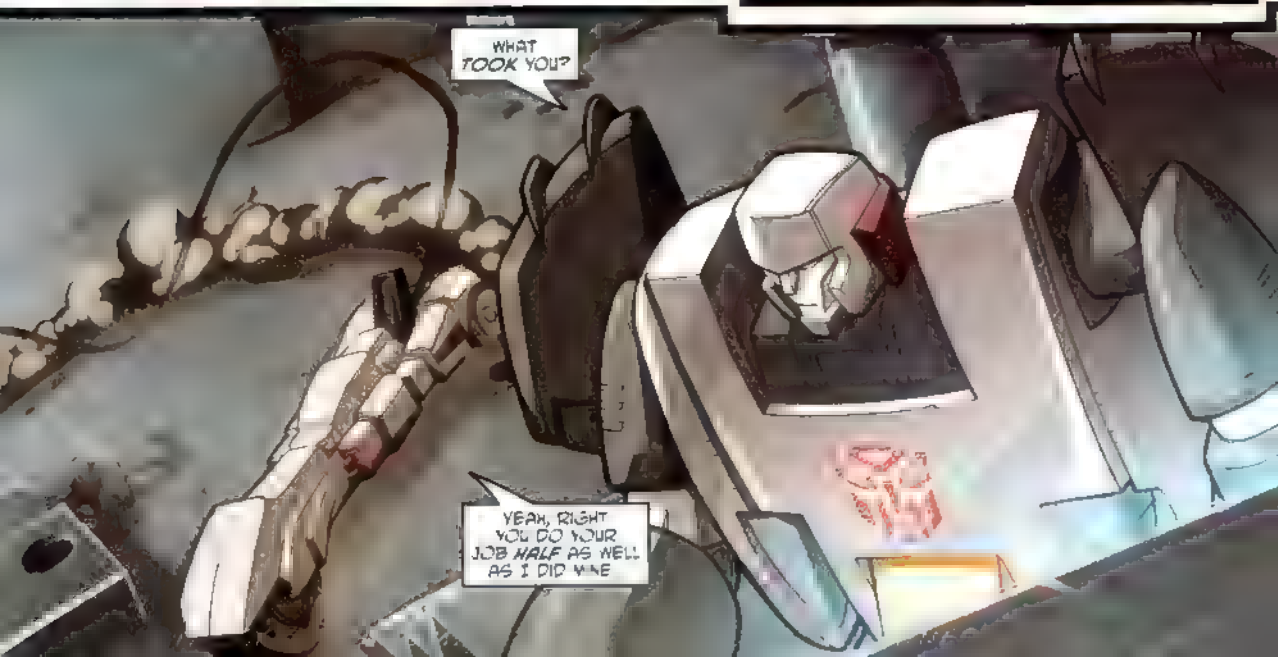
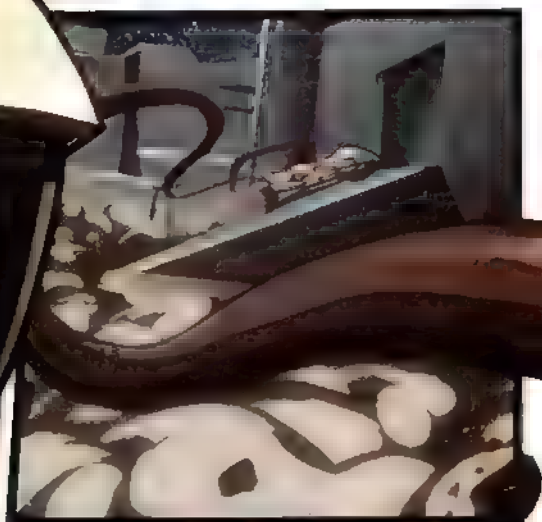
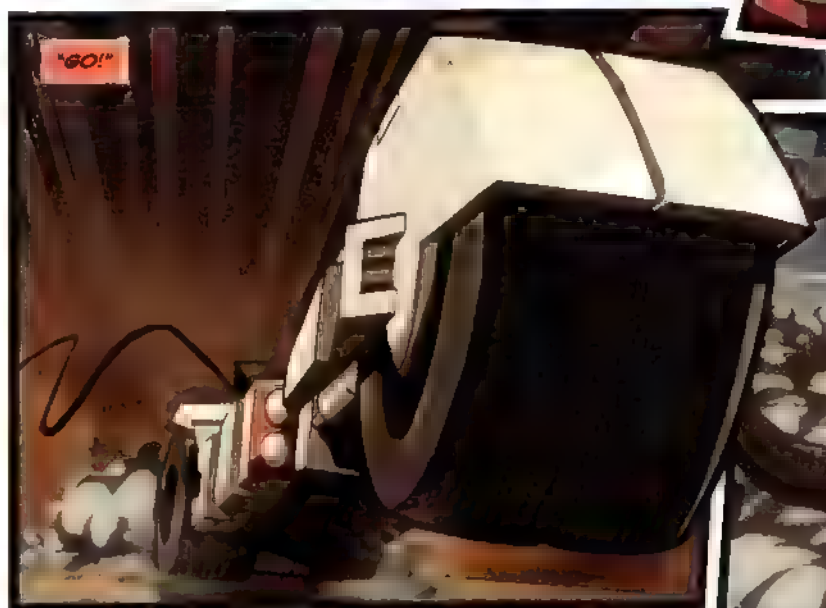
BLADES HAS
GOT HIS ATTENTION.
FIRST AID, YOU
READY?

UH-HUH. GET
ME AS CLOSE IN
AS YOU CAN,
HOTSPOT.

GROOVE?

WERE
READY

UH-HUH.
THIS SHOULD DO
US. I'M RELAYING
THE EXACT
CO-ORDINATES.





WE'RE
LAUGHING

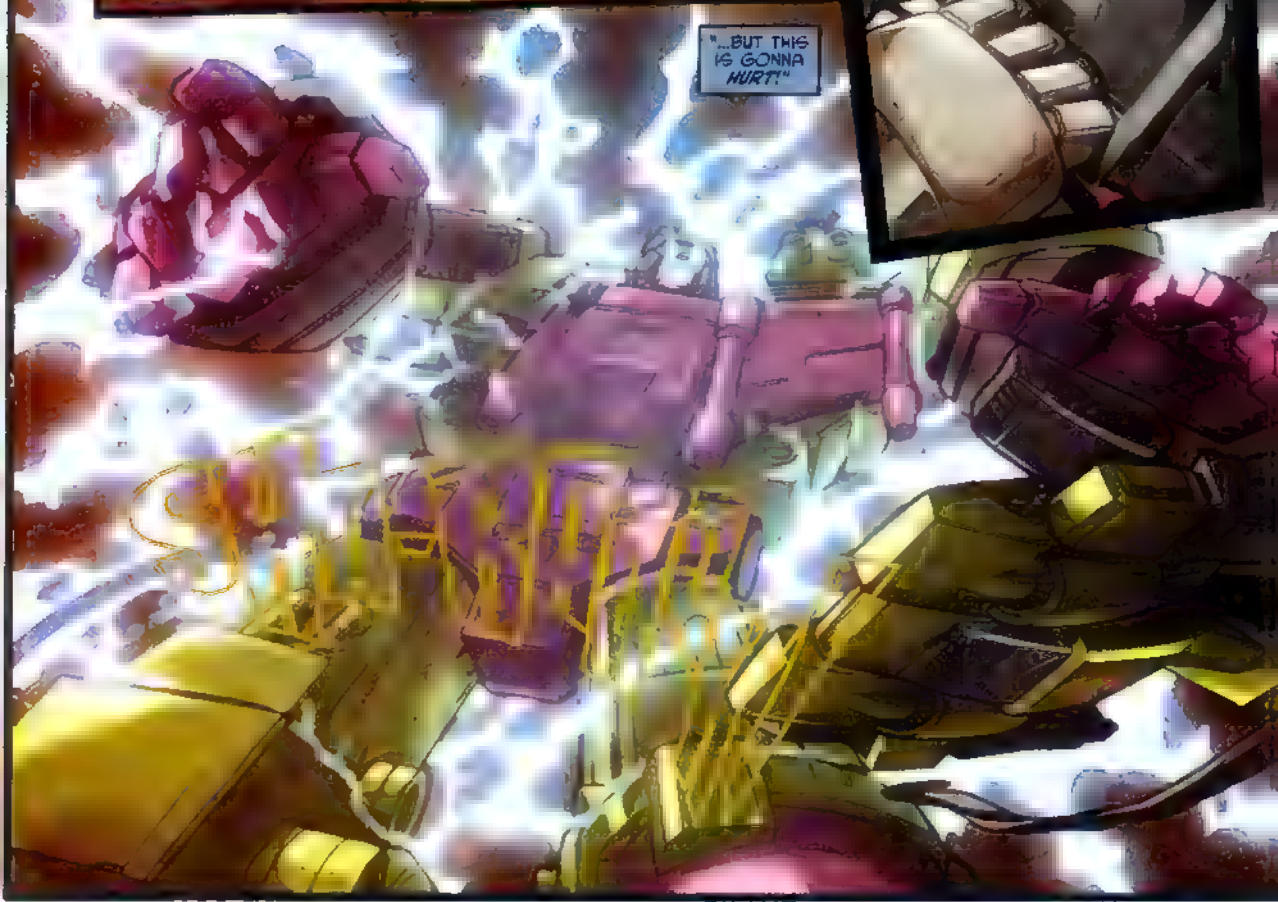
AND
LOCKED
CLEAR?

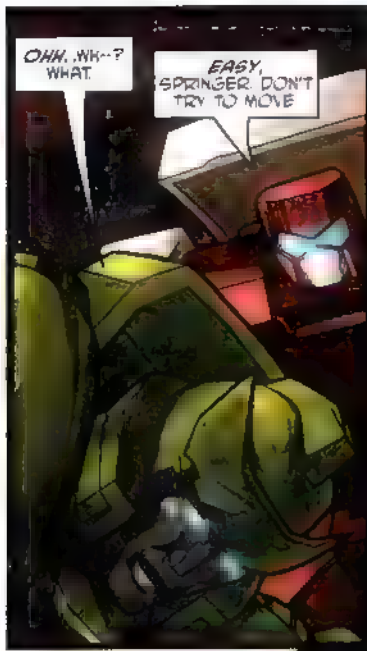


CLEAR!
SORRY,
SPRINGER



"...BUT THIS
IS GONNA
HURT!"





ELSEWHERE

ALL AUTOBOTS
CONVERGE ON THE
PRAXTORIS WHARF. TIME
IS A PRIORITY ONE
CALL. I REPEAT...

PRAXTORIS WHARF

CONVERGE ON
THE PRAXTORIS
WHARF...

USE POOL OWN
RESOURCES.

THE NEUTRAL
TECHNOLOGIES IN
FINE DISSEM.

KIKI

DO
NOT BE
LATE!

TO BE CONTINUED



FROM THE DESK OF... ALAN WANG

November 2003

As I sit here writing this at 2am in the morning, all I can think about is how I'm exactly two weeks behind with my Maximo pencils! It's been a grueling 1+ month long battle, I've become an even bigger hermit, and I think I should bathe/shave soon. People are starting to avoid me. All things aside, I'm VERY excited after all these years as a colorist to finally get a stab at penciling (and a Capcom title to boot! Whohoo!). When I first started three and a half years ago I never imagined it'd take me this long. So to say I'm pumped is an understatement, but with that said, this experience has been a humbling one. Newfound respect goes out to all the pencilers I've worked with in the past, I now feel your pain (Can I go back to coloring...? No! I'm kidding!). By the end of this week I'll be done pencils and cracking the tablet. That is, after I find out who stole my tablet pen and replaced it with this broken one...grrr...

Ok, enough from me. I just want to lastly say how grateful I am to Pat & Roger for trusting me with this critical title, and give thanks to James McDonough & Maximo writer Beau Smith for their support. I hope I don't let anyone down. M'goi daiioh's!

Till next endeavor, hang tight and remember:
"Beauty is Only Sword Deep!!"


Alan Wang
Penciler/Colorist



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YOUR DW CHECKLIST ✓ DECEMBER

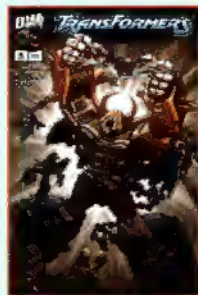
SPOTLIGHT TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE #0 ☐



Featuring art from two of the most popular TRANSFORMERS artists, this special issue promises even more TRANSFORMERS thrills, chills, and spills as well as revelations behind SHOCKWAVE, SCOURGE, and the most diabolical DECEPTICON of 'em all-the mighty MEGATRON!

by Brad Mick
Pat Lee
Don Figueroa

SPOTLIGHT TRANSFORMERS ARMADA #18 ☐



If you thought the 'Worlds Collide' storyline shook things up, think again. Prepare for even more shocks, chaos and drama, as the saga of ARMADA concludes... yes, concludes... in this action-packed issue. Dark forces are gathering once more, ushering in the staggering, sweeping saga of TRANSFORMERS ENERGEN!

by Simon Furman
& Guido Guidi

DARKMINDS: MACROPOLIS VOL.2 #3 ☐

DUEL MASTERS #2 ☐

MEGA MAN #4 ☐

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #7 ☐

TRANSFORMERS /G.I.JOE #5 ☐

TRANSFORMERS: WAR WITHIN THE DARK AGES #3 ☐

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DECLARATIONS OF WAR



We're pumped to answer some fan-mail this month, so let's get on with the letters!

Dear Dreamwave,

I just found out about your War Within sequel. I'm really excited about it and can't wait until it comes out. All of your Transformers comics are amazing in many ways, but The War Within series is by far my favorite. It really captures the image of the G1 characters and has many twists and turns. Most of all, I liked it because it was something different. Don't get me wrong-I love all the other Transformers comics, but this one is special. It's not like Armada or the G1 comics; in The War Within anything is possible. Meaning maybe the Autobots will lose the war, or maybe evil will never be defeated.

The War Within opened up a lot of ideas for me. Since the first volume ended, I have written several stories on the Transformers that I hope maybe one day can be turned into a comic book series. I just wanted everyone at Dreamwave to know that I like all the comic books they make, but that the War Within series is my favorite and I can't wait until the Dark Ages comes out this October. Thank you for all the hard work you guys do to produce a high-quality comic book. Bye!

Daniel Aubin
Connecticut, USA

Whew! Had to take a break from all this hard work to answer your letter, Daniel. It's a tough job, but it's worth it when we hear how much you're enjoying War Within's unique look at Cybertron's past. Of course, we like to think that all of the books have plenty of twists and turns (although WW holds a special place in our hearts too-but keep that under you hat). War Within is set in the past of our Generation One comic universe, so part of the thrill is in finding out how the characters and stories progress from WW to the present-day action you'll be seeing in the G1 ongoing!

And no War Within letter column would be complete without a letter (or two...or a million) like this:

Dear Dreamwave,

Are you going to put out sculptures or toys for this series? I hope so because the designs are better than most others coming out at the moment.

Griffin Lauerman

...And so it goes. This was only one letter of many, all asking the same thing. While we agree that the character designs in WW are the slag (to turn a Cybertronian phrase), there aren't currently any plans for them to appear in toy or statue form. Right now, Hasbro's making awesome stuff like the 20th Anniversary Optimus Prime, so we're not complaining too much!

Hello,

I was wondering if you had a tentative release schedule for this line of comics. I mean just how often you were planning on releasing it. I love the comic, the character designs, the dialogue-everything about it rocks.

Thanks,
David Casteel, Jr.

Here's the dilly on the War Within schedule: the current volume will be appearing monthly for its six-issue run, ending in March. Of course, you want to know our future plans too, right? Promise not to tell anyone? Okay-since there's a few million years between the era of WW and the time of G1, we figure we have a few million years worth of stories to tell. Expect to see a new War Within series every year for the foreseeable future!

Okay, that about wraps it up for now. Get ready for next issue, where we'll finally see the traumatic childhood accident that gave Starscream the screechy voice we all know and love. (Not really, but check out January's War Within: The Dark Ages #4 anyway!)

WRITE TO US!

WRITE TO US:
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L3R 9T8 CANADA

E-MAIL US:
WAVELENGTHS@DREAMWAVEPROD.CA

*LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR
LENGTH AND SPELLING.

FACING YOUR FEARS IS A
NORMAL PART
OF GROWING UP...

FACING 30 FOOT
SKELETON DRAGONS
ISN'T.

DUEL MASTERS #3

JANUARY



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irc.bertonum.net - COMING SOON

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THE **TRANSFORMERS** GENERATION ONE
MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!
FORMERS #1
THE ONGOING SERIES!

THE ORIGINAL
ROBOTS
IN DISGUISE

TRANSFORMERS
MONTH

DIRECT SALES



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MICK/FIGUEROA

JANUARY 2004

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